Appeal for Liberator – 1843

BOSTON
FEB
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MS.

Rev. Samuel May

Leicester

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At a full meeting of some of the warmest advocates of the Anti-Slavery cause in Boston & the adjacent towns, who are at the same time members & friends of the Massachusetts & the American Anti-Slavery Societies convened at the house of Francis Jackson to take into consideration the most effectual mode of action at the present time for the promotion of the cause. Francis Jackson of Boston was chosen chairman & Wm. A White of Watertown, Secretary. The following expression of sentiment was then unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that the Liberator, as the earliest, the ablest, the most powerful & the most successful Anti-Slavery instrumentality through the experience, fidelity, devotedness, genius & general high character of its editor William Lloyd Garrison, has a claim on all the friends of the Anti-Slavery cause, for their constant & strenuous exertions to extend its circulation.

Resolved, That Francis Jackson, Maria Weston Chapman, Ellis Gray Loring, Samuel Philbrick, Thankful Southwick, William Jenkins, Abner Langer, ~~George~~, Wm. Ashby Jr. Geo. Bradburn, John A Collins, Wendell Phillips, Mary A W Johnson, Christopher Robinson, John Rogers & Edmund Quincy, be a committee to prepare a communication on behalf of this meeting to the friends of the cause throughout the Country, presenting to them a plan to extend the circulation of the Liberator & exhorting them to aid us in carrying it into energetic & effectual operation.

Hereupon the above named committee presented the following letter, which was adopted by the meeting as a means of communicating with you & all other faithful friends of the cause; with earnest expressions of determination to carry the course of action it recommends into effect urging the adoption of the same throughout the Country & the World.

Dear Friend, Hollis Street, Boston Jan'y 9 1843

It is probably known to you that great exertions have recently been put forth, to make the Liberator as complete a medium of intelligence from the seat of our pro-slavery government as it has ever been of Anti-Slavery feeling & action from the head quarters of Freedom in Boston. With Mr Garrison at the post of action here, for which his entire devotedness, eminent ability & experience & rare union of enthusiasm & good judgment in the conduct of the movement he originated, so peculiarly qualify him, by securing the confidence of Abolitionists, the respect even of Slaveholders, & the freedom of the enterprise from all embarrassing connection with their apologists; — with Mr Child at the post of observation at the South, for which his extensive historical & legal knowledge, his comprehensive & statesmanlike mind, & long proved love for the cause make him so fit an occupant; — At so important a juncture, when a favoring — wind & current direct us to stretch every sheet to their impulse, ought not the friends of the Slave to do more in behalf of the Liberator, than merely to pay up last years arrears? It is in the conviction that we as abolitionists are morally bound to requite the benefits which our cause & our own souls have received from this instrumentality by sharing them with as many as possible, that we make the following suggestions, earnestly urging upon you the importance of doing this work. whatever else in the cause remains, the while undone.

1. We propose simultaneous private meetings for the Liberator throughout the Country to be called by your writing notes of invitation to those persons in your immediate neighborhood who already take the Liberator, & whose friendliness to it is undoubted, & who will therefore feel it their duty to obtain new participants in the pleasure & the profit they receive beggging them to meet on the ____ day of ____ for joint action in this behalf.

2. Being together, to appoint two of the most devoted & responsible of your number as treasurers, & to resolve yourselves into a committee of the whole, each pledging him or herself to obtain all the obtainable subscribers the place affords by making personal

application to each individual, dividing among you this labour of presenting opportunity of subscription, either by streets, denominations, or the adaptation of individual to individual, as you find best calculated to increase the chance of success. We earnestly advise you to unite in this effort both the men & the women of the cause, as half the ability, half the zeal, often more than half the time & means which our cause might command are lost for want of united action in its behalf.

Having commenced action yourselves you might do much by correspondence with neighboring towns, to stir their sleeping embers to a flame. A letter from you would deepen the effect or prepare the way for one from us, according as it chanced to follow or precede us.

3. Where the latent enthusiasm for the Liberator which never fails to rouse at the signal, can effect most by a more public effort, as in those places where the density of the population ~~of abolitionists~~ & its large proportion of abolitionists, affords hope of a cheering demonstration, send up a call for a public meeting of the friends of the Liberator. If a column of such calls should appear at once from various parts of the Country in the Liberator, Standard & Herald of Freedom, the effect would be a mutual strengthening of the friends by showing them that there were hearts beating in unison with their own, in places where they were not aware that Anti-Slavery feeling existed.

4. To convene your Anti-Slavery Society (if it deserves the name) for this especial purpose, & as the Liberator has been heretofore strengthened by the resolutions of the associations, when it was necessary to preserve its influence from malignant assaults, so let that influence now be extended, by a subscription of each individual member in society meeting assembled, with a resolve on the part of each, to procure at least one additional subscriber, if the thing be possible, & then by joint action as a society, to subscribe for a certain number of copies for gratuitous circulation, which the committee of the Liberator will send to you or to such persons as you direct, at a rate diminished in proportion to the number.

5. As often as any Anti-Slavery convention or meeting whatever is held in your region, fail not to make arrangements before hand, to have some one on the spot to present the claims of the Liberator, & earnestly to follow up the idea by immediately securing all the subscribers possible.

6. To resolve that whatever labor is expended in this behalf, should be entirely a labor of love. With all the agencies gratis, & all the subscriptions in advance, the Liberator would soon complete the mighty work for which it was raised up. The expense of agencies, so indispensable in some departments of the cause can here be entirely saved, by the self sacrifice due from each man & woman whom the improving influence of this instrumentality has blessed. Remember on this connexion to collect old debts & solicit donations, as that will enable the committee to send the Liberator to unbroken fields, where it might implant & cherish a deep interest in the cause.

7. To do what is done quickly. Setting aside the fact that it is very desirable to the majority of persons, to have their subscriptions commence with the year, the need to do with all our might was never more imperative. An important session of Congress – a deeply interesting period in Massachusetts Legislation – A crisis hour in the Anti-Slavery cause – An evident yielding in the public mind to its pressure – A daily increasing obligation to communicate needful knowledge & indispensable intelligence to the minds that are just shaking off their prejudices, & their enmity, & which in the very warmth of their desire to atone for past delay, are liable to be duped by designing professors of abolitionism; – all these things call loudly for dispatch in the work of increasing the subscription list of the Liberator.

Submitting these suggestions, on which we have all resolved to act, with the hope of receiving your strenuous co-operation in carrying ~~out~~ them into effect, & soliciting in turn any which may present themselves to your mind as likely to promote our common cause,

We remain in behalf of this meeting yours devotedly for its service.

Francis Jackson

Maria Weston Chapman

Ellis Gray Loring.

Saml. Philbrick

Thankful Southwick

William Jenkins Andover

Aaron Sargent Danvers

William Ashby Jr. Newburyport

M. A. W. Johnson

Christopher Robinson Lynn

John Rogers Boston

Geo. Bradburn. Nantucket

John A. Collins Boston

Wm. Coll Phillips

Edmund Quincy. Dedham

P. S. It is also the suggestion of the meeting, that you come up to the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, in the determination to sustain this vital point, by holding a special meeting for the Liberator, at some suitable hour during the three days that the abolitionists are there assembled..